

LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL
HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACT OF
2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017, which would create reports on mental health practices and services that could be adopted by law enforcement agencies. This is an important piece of legislation, and I am pleased to support it.

I understand all too well people who experience mental health problems, as I have spent time meeting with individuals during my time as a Congressman. Studies by the National Institutes of Health have shown that individuals in my home state of Georgia experience post-traumatic stress disorder and general anxiety disorder at a rate double the national average. Furthermore, law enforcement officers are placed at the forefront as they have to deal with stressful and dangerous situations every day. Currently, federal grants are awarded to states to fund studies into the social impacts of crime. However, there are no conditions in place to have these grants investigate the mental health and well-being of law enforcement, who are neglected as a part of the mental-health problem in the country. For example, data showed that officers reported more suicidal thoughts than the general population by over 10 percent. To remedy this, H.R. 2228 will expand the scope of these grants to investigate mental health practices and services that could be adopted by law enforcement agencies. The Department of Justice (DOJ) would also separately report on programs that have positive impacts on the psychological health and well-being of law enforcement officers. With these reports, the DOJ would ensure that law enforcement agencies have the appropriate resources to deal with mental health issues common to law enforcement officers.

Studies have shown that between 7 to 19 percent of police officers have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and they are more likely to die from suicide rather than homicide. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support law enforcement to obtain the mental-health resources they deserve.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ADDIE RUTH
FOX PARKER ON HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of Mrs. Addie Ruth Fox Parker, who will be turning 100 years old on December 14, 2017.

Mrs. Parker was born on December 14, 1917 in Jacksonville (Calhoun County), Alabama and reared in their home located on the fringe of the town square. Her father was

Cassie Fox, a businessman and landowner and her mother was Jennie Taylor Fox, a school teacher. She is a graduate of Cobb High School in Anniston, Alabama and Alabama A&M College (now Alabama A&M University) in Huntsville, Alabama, where she played tennis and sang in the choir. Divorced with a daughter, she then married Rev. (Pastor) Joseph C. Parker, Sr. on July 28, 1951, in Anniston, Alabama and remained married until his death in 1987. Her husband was a pastor, civil rights leader, teacher, principal, faculty member at the Birmingham (Alabama) Baptist College, and Church Relations Director at Bishop College in Dallas Texas. He also served as pastor of churches in Jacksonville, Anniston, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Alabama, as well as Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas, where she served with him as the pastor's wife and occasional pianist, starting in 1951.

Resident of DeSoto, Mrs. Parker has been a Texas resident since 1972 and is a member of the Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. She retired from a decades-long elementary school teaching career, having taught in Alabama and Texas.

While living in Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama in the late 1950s and 1960s, she served in the Alabama Civil Rights Movement as a dedicated and hard-working confidante, partner, participant, and supporter of her husband—Rev. Joseph C. Parker, Sr.—who was a founding pastor, servant, racial justice advocate, and leader of the Alabama Civil Rights Movement, starting in 1955 with his involvement in the Montgomery Bus Boycott; Montgomery Improvement Association; Montgomery Inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance (Secretary); NAACP; Selma to Montgomery Marches; the Birmingham civil rights protests; and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and alongside her husband's Morehouse college friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, and Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Sr. and his wife, Juanita Jones Abernathy.

Mrs. Parker's children, grandchildren, other family members, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances use these words to describe her qualities and attributes that they believe have contributed to her wonderfully successful life and career—character: strong Christian faith, integrity, commitment, and action; personality: warm, compassionate, giving, loving, determined spirit, lively, and humorous; and intelligence: has had and still possesses a keen mind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL and all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Addie Ruth Fox Parker on this remarkable milestone. I wish her a special day shared in the company of her family and friends and all the best in the years ahead.

TRACY KRAFT-THARP

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp for being honored by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp has deep roots working in Jefferson County, and has an extensive background working in the areas of mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice.

Rep. Kraft-Tharp ran the Gemini House and Women in Crisis programs with Family Tree in Jefferson County, and has run a small consulting business helping Jefferson County's small businesses and nonprofits build their capacity. In 2012, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives where she currently serves as the Chair of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee, the Legislative Audit committee and the Streamlining Sales tax committee. She also serves on the Appropriations committee. Her focus in the legislature has been on economic development, workforce pathways and increasing access to mental health services.

Rep. Kraft-Tharp's work in the community has included her involvement with the Jefferson County League of Women Voters, Jeffco PTA, the Northwest Business and Professional Women. She has also served as a member of the Jeffco Public Schools Strategic Advisory Committee, the City of Arvada Human Services Council and the Arvada Citizens Capital Improvement Committee. She has also been recognized for her legislative work by the Women's Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Nonprofit Association and as a Denver Business Journal Powerbook Finalist.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Representative Tracy Kraft-Tharp for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 638 and No. 639.

Had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 638, I would have voted 'YEA'.

Had I been present to vote on Roll Call No. 639, I would have voted 'YEA'.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
PREGERSON

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Judge Harry Pregerson—a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather—who passed away on November 25, 2017 at the age of 94. He was a United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Harry Pregerson was born on October 13, 1923 in Los Angeles, CA and attended the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. In 1992, the UCLA Alumni Association awarded Harry the "Community Service Award" for his efforts helping homeless families to house in Salvation Army shelters. Harry was also a United States Marine